

**City of Milwaukee**  
**Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**  
**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE**

*Caressa Givens, Claude Krawczyk, Kevin Kuschel (DCD),  
Nicholas La Joie, Daniel Roufus (MPD) Andy Tillman, Angie Tornes*

*Staff Assistant, James Hannig, 286-8750  
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Wednesday, March 3, 2021

4:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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1. Meeting commenced at 4:30 PM.

**Members Present** 6 – Givens, Kuschel, Krawczyk, La Joie, Tillman, Tornes,

**Members Excused** 1 –Roufus

**Other Attendees** 19 – Mike Amsden (DPW), John B (guest), Cheryl Blue (guest), Sarah Bregant (guest), Kathy Brengosz (Legislative Reference Bureau), Christopher Chan (guest), Bob Dalhke (guest-guest), James Davies (guest), Michael Driscoll (guest), Wessley Hampton (guest), Mitchell Henke (guest), Montavius Jones (guest), Willie Karidis (guest), Miranda Grace McCall (guest), Alexis Leigh Nehmer (guest), Brian Peters (guest), Becky Rabatin (DOA-ADA Coordinator), Kate Riordan (DPW), Bob Schneider (guest), Cinthia Téllez (guest), Angelia Vickio (guest), Paul Williams (guest), Jose (guest), and 1 other guest joined by telephone

2. Approval of Minutes from February meeting

*Motion to approve minutes for February 2021 meeting was approved (Motion: Givens; Second: Tornes)*

3. Presentation from guest speaker Willie Karidis (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy) related to the preliminary feasibility study for the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor trail

*Karidis (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy) presented on the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Trail feasibility study which focused on the feasibility of a rail-with-trail along the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor. The study engaged over 11 partners including the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor Corporation. The study included segment analyses, implementation, future commuter rail considerations, identifying pinch points, and cost among other factors. Blue (30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor Corp., Executive Director) provided additional background on the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor and the rail-with-trail as a potential catalyst for equitable development for the surrounding community.*

*Tornes asked whether measures could be applied to avoid displacement or gentrification. Blue stressed the importance of transparent engagement with the community. Karidis added an example from Washington, DC where a similar project used a land trust. La Joie asked if there were rail challenges related to the rail-with-trail model. Karidis responded that there are challenges particularly liability for property owners. Téllez asked whether there have been discussions related to connecting Milwaukee's north side (via the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor) and south side (via the Hank Aaron State Trail). Karidis discussed potential connection to the trails using an easement at Selig Dr. Givens noted she wanted to coordinate with Blue to empower city leaders to support the project. Blue responded with the importance of relationships and she would love to meet with Givens to further discuss.*

4. Discussion related to Peer Cities review of bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees

*Givens provided a brief introduction on the topic, and Brengosz provided background on previous research conducted by the City's Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). LRB provided a memo that included an overview of bicycle and pedestrian committees from Austin, Baltimore, Houston, Madison, Minneapolis, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle. A few similarities among the committees included that many of the groups were large (e.g., 15-20 people) and aligned representation with aldermanic districts or wards. Most meet on a monthly basis and included quite a bit of community engagement. Minneapolis' committee provided quite a few formal resolutions to the council on state and federal advocacy topics. Most groups also provided formal guidance on topics to the local council.*

*Givens asked what steps would need to occur for the current task force to evolve into something else. Brengosz outlined that a resolution would need to be introduced to Common Council, assigned to a committee (likely Public Safety & Health),*

*identify an alder sponsor. The committee would discuss the topic and vote whether to refer the resolution to full Common Council. The resolution would need to include members, a general purpose, and any regular reports. Bylaws could be created or updated by the task force at a later date. Kuschel asked for more information of how the Minneapolis committee developed resolutions. Brengosz noted that they seemed to be modeled as memos that were attached to other council files. Tornes asked whether it seemed like any of the example letters/resolutions from peer cities seemed to make a difference on the outcome of projects. Brengosz noted that was not included in the scope of the research but that it certainly cannot hurt. Brengosz concluded that it is important to not focus too much on what other cities are doing and to make sure to focus on what will work in Milwaukee.*

*Givens shared an online survey related to what the community would like to see in a bicycle and pedestrian committee. Givens also noted an upcoming opportunity for tying this effort to broader strategic planning through the Milwaukee Safe & Healthy Streets grant.*

5. Exercise to develop a Mission & Vision for the task force

*Kuschel led a Jamboard exercise to develop a mission and vision using a storytelling approach to the question: "What is the purpose of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force?"*

*The group was divided into six breakout rooms and reported their general takeaways in the broader group. The results will be further discussed at the April task force meeting.*

6. Community Dialogue & Upcoming Events

*Givens introduced Schneider and efforts to draft an op-ed letter to oppose the expansion of I-94 from six to eight lanes. Schneider outlined the main points of the draft letter and the group discussed whether to support the letter and sign on as supporters. Multiple members agreed that the task force should review the draft letter before deciding to endorse the letter. The group agreed to review the letter by 3/5/21 and Hannig committed to setting up a poll to allow members to vote on endorsing the letter.*

*Riordan provided a summary of the proposed 2021 e-scooter pilot study. The group discussed whether the task force was interested in providing a letter of support for the 2021 pilot study. Krawczyk motioned to support the pilot study; Tornes seconded. Givens offered to draft a letter by 3/12/21 ahead of the Public Works Committee.*

5. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM (Motion: Tornes; Second: Tillman)

A recording of the meeting can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/s70bR-ZxNsA>

*James Hannig  
Staff Assistant*